

From: Brahmbhatt, Roshni [brahmbhatt.Roshni@epa.gov]
Sent: 6/8/2021 11:57:43 PM
To: callen@baaqmd.gov
CC: Juan Ortellado [jortellado@baaqmd.gov]; Connolly, Scott [Connolly.Scott@epa.gov]
Subject: EPA Region 9 Comments on AB&I Foundry HRA

Dear Carol Allen,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the HRA conducted at AB&I by Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Please see our comments below.

1. It appears that the HRA does not consider emissions from core making machines. The AB&I facility includes Shell core making as a specific item in its annual emission inventories, but it does not appear that the HRA contains these emission sources in its analysis and it does not contain any explanation or commentary on these emissions. These emission units are sources of Toxic Air Contaminants (TACs) such as Toluene, Naphthalene, Acetaldehyde, Phenol, Benzene, Formaldehyde, Hexane and o-Cresols, chemicals already included in the HRA from other facility sources. To ensure that the HRA is inclusive of all potential sources of TAC risk, we recommend including this source in the assessment. In addition to being included in other areas of the HRA these chemicals are also identified by EPA's Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI) (<https://www.epa.gov/rsei/rsei-toxicity-weights>) and EPA's Integrated Risk Information System (www.iris.epa.gov) as chemicals with cancer and/or health risks.
2. The HRA does not acknowledge that emissions and facility activity may be variable from year to year and that 2017 data might not fully reflect current emissions, source-specific throughput, and total health risks. For example, the 2017 Emissions Inventory lists total TACs and Reportable emissions at 4.09 tons per year (tpy), but both 2015 and 2018 had higher total TACs emissions numbers, at 5.24 tpy and 4.63 tpy, respectively. Additionally, 2017 was a low year for iron melted with 2015, 2016, 2018 and 2019 having higher values. It may be helpful to fully acknowledge to the risks from the facility to include the highest actual emissions or how risks might be impacted by variable production.
3. The HRA mentions that the inventories were adjusted based on recent source testing and other changes at the facility. It would help the reader to identify which TACs more clearly were adjusted and how those inventories compare to other reported inventories for this facility (in 2017 and in more recent years like 2018 and 2019). For example, the HRA lists facility emissions of Formaldehyde, at 32 lbs/year, but the 2017 Emissions inventory lists 1480 lbs/year, the 2018 Emissions Inventory lists 1173 lbs/year and the 2019 Emissions inventory lists 1073 lbs/year. Also in another example, the HRA lists Benzene emissions at 1420 lbs/year, but the 2017 Emissions inventory lists 2724 lbs/year, the 2018 Emissions Inventory lists 3334 lbs/year and the 2019 Emissions inventory lists 2556 lbs/year. This trend appears to be consistent for other reported pollutants as well.
4. The HRA relies on facility reported emissions data, some of which is based on emissions testing conducted at the facility. The analysis reported in the HRA for hexavalent chromium appears to rely on appropriate testing and recent sampling data at numerous sources at the facility, but for other TACs the HRA appears to rely on older testing data, using non-stationary source test methods for organic TAC emissions. It also appears that testing for specific organic TAC emissions did not occur at most emission units at the facility, indicating that data quality used to support the HRA is variable by chemical. For example, the HRA references Benzene emissions that was determined using emissions testing conducted on unit S2_B5(B5S2) in 2012 that uses an ambient air test method (TO-15) instead of a stationary source test method, resulting in reliance on data that was generated from a test method not approved for this application. It's also worth noting that data for TACs at the cupola were also conducted with this method. It might benefit the reader to acknowledge data variability and

uncertainty in the HRA and how it may contribute to uncertainty about the direction and magnitude of the modeled TAC health risks.

Sincerely,
Roshni Brahmbhatt
Manager, Air Enforcement Section
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
US EPA, Region 9
Brahmbhatt.Roshni@EPA.gov
Ph: [415-972-3995](tel:415-972-3995)
Preferred Pronouns: She, Her

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